Using RedHat Kickstart

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Road Map to a Kickstart Install

- Why Use Kickstart

- Basic Theory of Operation

- Some Details

- An Example Kickstart File

- Additional Resources

Why Use Kickstart?

- You want homogeneous machines

- Ease of installation

- You want to install workstations over a network

- Faster- minimal human intervention

Things That Are Automated

- Language Selection

- Keyboard Selection

- Mouse Selection

- Network Configuration

- LILO Installation

- Disk Partitioning

- X Configuration

Where To Put A Kickstart File

- Boot Disk

  - Delete {rescue,boot,expert}.msg on floppy
  - mcopy Kickstart file (ks.cfg) to floppy
  - Note: boot disk type determines type of install

- Network

  - Usually used with DHCP/BOOTP server
  - Use *filename* in dhcpd.conf to specify kickstart file or directory
  - If *filename* ends with "/" then file is in that subdirectory with name *<ip-addr>-kickstart*

Starting Kickstart

- boot: **linux ks=floppy**

- **boot: linux ks**

- **boot: linux ks=hd:**$<device>/<file>$

- **boot: nfs:**$<server:>/<path>$

The Kickstart File

- When starting look at /doc/sample.ks on RedHat CD-ROM

- A pound sign ("#") indicates a comment

- Non-required items can be omitted

- Omitted required items cause user prompting for the answer

- Order matters: commands, pre, packages, post

A Sample Kickstart File

- This example is not indicative of all features available

Our Cluster Kickstart File

- This is the Kickstart file used to create each of the nodes in today's demonstration

- Ben Bergen will discuss the details of the all important post scripts

Tips and Hints

- Use *ksconfig* for easy initial setup

- Try using a subset of install files as a test

- Add "magic" line to *default* in *syslinux.cfg*

- Use individual packages or package groups